

Basel, September 30, 1988

Victor A. McKusick, M.D.
Moore Clinic
JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL
Baltimore, Maryland 21205
USA

Dear Victor,

Following the Geneva meeting I had occasion to talk at length with Mr. Antonio Ruberti, the minister for the coordination of research and technology of the Italian government, about the HUGO organization, and how he would see an Italian participation, and also an international organization for financial support in general. He expressed great interest in the goals of the organization, especially the intention of establishing some laboratories in selected countries. He sees with great favor a European genome laboratory. Concerning the type of international organization that could support the organization, he was very skeptical about the possibility of having a treaty similar to that of EMBO; things are difficult enough on a European scale, they get terribly complex on a world scale. For instance, I infer, many countries would be very suspicious of a Japanese participation and of its possible goals.

Mr Ruberti thinks that the only way to set the organization is on a voluntary base, in such a way that the interested countries can participate in its support, but with a limited commitment. There is one international organization that is supported on this basis, and it is the International Institute for Applied Analysis (IASA), located in Vienna. He suggested that it may be taken as a model, and provided me with a copy of its charter, which I enclose.

I think that we must consider seriously what Mr Ruberti thinks, because he is the representative of one of the governments who might participate in the support of HUGO, and is the person who would actually decide on the Italian position.

I will be here in Basel until the beginning of November; if you wish to contact me you should do it here.

Best regards



Renato Dulbecco